

MINUTES
OPC SPECIAL MEETING
September 16, 2014

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 119 at Town Hall at 8:40 a.m.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Vice-Chairman, Heather Shea; Planning & Zoning Vice-Chairman, Steve Olvany; RTM Moderator, Sarah Seelye; Board of Finance Chairman, Elizabeth Mao and State Representative, Terrie Wood. Also in attendance was Selectman Susan Marks.

First Selectman Stevenson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the OPC meeting held on July 22, 2014. Mrs. Seelye moved to approve the minutes. Mrs. Wood seconded and the motion passed by 3-0 vote. Ms. Shea and Mr. Olvany abstained.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Mr. Olvany reported that Planimetrics has been selected to produce the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. The first step in the development of the plan is to hold a public input session, which is scheduled October 22, 2014 at 8:00 PM in the auditorium of Town Hall.

At The Heights of Darien all but two buildings (which have temporary Certificates of Occupancy) have final COs. The Darien Athletic Foundation has received P&Z approval to move forward with its turf field project. A discussion ensued and Mrs. Shea said that the BOE hopes to receive a formal field development plan from DAF. Otherwise, capital funds may be needed to replace a field deemed unsafe. Mr. Olvany noted that there is litigation pending related to this DAF project. Additionally, the P&Z Commission is set for a court date on October 8th in New Britain, CT. on the lawsuit brought forth by the Stefanonis regarding their property on Hoyt Street.

The commission continues to work on the development of an overlay zone for senior housing which would allow for greater density. Palmer's expects to submit a redevelopment plan for its property in Noroton Heights in October. Lastly, Friendly's lease has expired and the restaurant has closed.

Mrs. Liz Mao arrived at 8:50 a.m.

Board of Finance

Ms. Mao stated that refunded bonds for a total savings of \$750,000 to the Town which the Board of Finance elected to put into FY 2015. It was also noted that there has been a significant increase in conveyance tax and building permit revenues. A Note sale for the purchase of the Short Lane property received an excellent rate of .259%.

State Representative

Pending elections have temporarily quieted the work in Hartford, but Ms. Wood reported that she is still busy with local constituent concerns such as DMV and DOT issues.

Board of Education

Vice-Chairman Shea conveyed that the Board of Education will be presented with the results of a capacity study completed by Milone & MacBroom on September 19th. At its meeting on September 23rd the BOE will consider if it needs to acquire the property on Edgerton St. that formerly housed the senior center. Ms. Stevenson has heard from neighbors in the area with safety concerns about the now vacant building.

The new special education facilitators are in place, but the Board is still looking for an Assistant Director of Special Education and a new Superintendent of Schools.

Representative Town Meeting

The RTM meeting scheduled for September 22, 2014 has been canceled. The next RTM meeting is an organizational meeting scheduled for November 10th. The group discussed ways to best manage the budget process.

First Selectman

First Selectman Stevenson announced that the Mather Community Center ribbon-cutting is scheduled for September 22, 2014 at 11:30 a.m., followed by an evening Open House event. More seniors are attending every day and more service providers are interested in utilizing the center. The Health Department will sponsor a Health Fair in the Mather Center later this month.

On September 18th Mrs. Stevenson will attend an MPO meeting. Important agenda items to be addressed include: a discussion on cell towers with the CT Siting Council and proposed DEEP stormwater regulations, which would be costly to implement and sustain.

Other items of interest: a RFP for a Downtown parking study is underway and the Consolidated Services Working Group held its second meeting. Presently, the group is studying health plans for possible consolidation opportunities.

It was noted that the RTM Public Works Committee has formed a Pedestrian Safety sub-committee. Sidewalks were discussed in general and in relation to safe passage to schools. Finally, Ms. Stevenson said she hopes all constituents will be heard on the topic of lights at Darien High School and that in the end a request for lights would come to the Board of Selectmen from either the DAF or BOE.

Mr. Olvany motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Mao. By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary